

AUSTRIA'S FELLER FORCE DROVEN BACK; EMPLOYMENT CONTROL IN SIX WEEKS

U. S. TO DIRECT LABOR AFTER AUGUST 1

President to Halt Competition Among Employers for Workers.

UNFAIR TO NATION
UNDER WAR STRESS

Government Forced to
Take Over Recruiting
of Labor.

ACTION TAKEN IS PLAN
OF SECRETARY WILSON

Head of Labor Portfolio Wrote
President That War
Demands It.

President Wilson last night called on the employers of the country to cease competition for labor among themselves, and apply to the government for their needs.

Text of Statement.

His statement reads:
"For more than a year it has been our pride that not our armies and navies only but our whole people is engaged in a righteous war. We have said repeatedly that industry plays as essential and honorable a role in this great struggle as do our military armaments. We all recognize the truth of this, but we must also see its necessary implications—namely, that industry, doing a vital task for the nation, must receive the support and assistance of the government. We must recognize that it is a natural demand—a right of anyone serving his country, whether employer or employee, to know that his service is being used in the most effective manner possible. In case of labor this whole desire has been not a little thwarted owing to the changed conditions which war has created in the labor market.

Confusion Through Ignorance.
There has been much confusion as to essential products. There has been ignorance of conditions—men have seen hundreds of miles in search of a job and wages which they might have found at their doors. Employers holding government contracts of the highest importance have competed for workers with holders of similar contracts, and even with the government itself. They have conducted expensive campaigns for recruiting labor in sections where the supply of labor was already exhausted. California draws its unskilled labor from as far west as Buffalo, and New York from as far east as Mississippi. Thus labor has been induced to move fruitlessly from one place to another, congesting the railroads and losing both time and money.

Unfair to Nation.
"Such a condition is unfair alike to all of the nation itself, whose existence is threatened by any decrease in its productive power. It is obvious that this situation can be cleared up and equalized by a central agency—the United States Employment Service of the Department of Labor, with the counsel of the War Labor Policies Board as the voice of all the industrial agencies of the government. Such a central agency must have sole direction of all recruiting of civilian workers in war work; and, in taking over this great responsibility, must at the same time have power to assure to essential industries an adequate supply of labor, even to the extent of withdrawing workers from nonessential production. It must also protect labor from insincere and thoughtless appeals made to it under the plea of patriotism, and assure it that when it is asked to volunteer in some priority industry, the need is real.

Asked to Refrain After July.
"Therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, solemnly urge all employers engaged in war work to refrain after July 1, 1918, from recruiting unskilled labor in any manner except through this central agency. I urge labor to volunteer as loyally as workers, and to accept of no sacrifice which will have been in vain, if we are able to prove in any way that the highest and best form of efficiency is the spontaneous co-operation of a free people.

"WOODROW WILSON."
On June 15 Secretary Wilson sent the following letter to the President urging the military necessity of such a plan:
"My dear Mr. President—Our increasing military effort is placing strains upon industry which call for the most careful husbanding of our man power. We can no longer leave our labor supply to the unregulated forces of competition nor even the patriotic efforts of diverse agencies of the government unrelated to a comprehensive policy and unified direction. There is an increasing shortage of unskilled labor for war production and likewise a shortage in certain classes of skilled workers. The needed labor must be secured for war industries by drawing upon nonessential or less essential industries. At present this is done largely at haphazard. A dependable industry com-

Cary Asks House to Probe Living Cost in District

Why does it cost more to live in Washington than any city in the country?
That is what Congress wants to know and probably will know soon. Representative Cary introduced a bill yesterday in the House to investigate the high cost of living in the District and find out who or what is responsible.

The bill calls for an investigating committee to be appointed from the membership of the House and is to have power to summon dealers in foodstuffs and examine their books and records.

Representative Cary also complains that the Food Administration's powers are too limited and insists that they be broadened so that food profiteering can be checked. The bill would appropriate \$10,000 to carry on the work of investigation.

WINE-GROWERS BEGIN CLOSING OUT BUSINESS

California Concerns Believe
Dry Regime Certain,
Says Kahn.

California wine growers are already beginning to liquidate their business, in anticipation that the Sheppard national prohibition amendment will be ratified by the States, Julius Kahn, Representative from that State, told the Senate Agricultural Committee yesterday.

In opposing the Jones amendment which seeks to stop the sale as well as the manufacture of intoxicants, Mr. Kahn told the committee that if the amendment were passed, California would lose not only a \$30,000,000 investment in this year's grape crop, but perhaps \$200,000,000 worth of property would be rendered useless.

The California Congressman was the first speaker at a series of hearings the committee is holding on the prohibition amendment to the food stimulation bill. Drys and wets are both concentrating all efforts on these amendments. The fact that President Wilson has opposed a prohibition rider to an appropriation bill makes the fight all the sharper.

In addition to Mr. Kahn, Dr. E. C. Dickinson, secretary of the Anti-Saloon League, appeared for the Jones amendment, and John J. Kearney, of Boston, representing unionized hotel employees and bartenders, against it.

Selling Out.
Representative Lea, of Santa Rosa, Cal., and Senator Phelan, of that State, will speak today in behalf of the wine growers' interests.

"California wine growers are already liquidating their businesses," said Mr. Kahn to the committee. "They are getting ready to quit. They realize it is probable the Sheppard amendment will be ratified by thirty-six States. So they are disposing of their stocks as quickly as they can. It will take them two or three years to liquidate."

"But war-time prohibition will destroy all their property, and they should be given time to wind up their business. It would take at least five months to use this year's fruit crop in wine manufacture. The bulk of the grapes have no food value, and there would be no virtue in saving them for foodstuffs. The growers cannot dispose of the grapes satisfactorily by using them for grape juice."

The Californian commented on the fact that wine rations are issued to the French and Italian armies, and that the British are given a rum ration.

"They seem to give pretty good account of themselves as fighters," he said.

Prohibits Present Views.
Dr. Dickinson spoke a short time, holding that the Jones amendment was entirely constitutional.

Some Senators do not believe this, notably Norris of Nebraska and Kenyon of Iowa, committee members. They questioned the constitutionality yesterday. The Senators hold that it is illegal to prevent the sale of the intoxicants already manufactured, and Senator Norris may offer a substitute. There is also some doubt whether grapes used for wine manufacture may be used for food.

Mr. Kearney said thousands of the union men he represented would be thrown out of employment by the bone-dry prohibition amendment.

INDICT FOUR ON U. S. CONTRACT GRAFT CHARGE

Offer to Raincoat Maker
Leads Men With "Influence" Into Trap.

NET OUT FOR OTHERS

Justice Department Aims to
Root Out Contingent
Fee System.

Sensational disclosures of alleged graft conspiracy in connection with government contracts were made yesterday by the Department of Justice in announcing the indictment in Philadelphia of John Fleming, John T. Cavanaugh, Eugene Sullivan and Joseph Kohn.

They are charged with having offered to obtain for the Quaker City Raincoat Company of Philadelphia a contract for 300,000 army raincoats, provided the concern split profits and granted them large commissions for the use of their "influence" in getting the order.

The department in announcing the capture of the men severely scored the practices of "contingent fee contractors," and promised to round up numbers of men engaged in these practices in Washington, New York, and other cities.

Yesterday agents of the department and officers of the military and naval intelligence spread a network over all sections of the country where the system has prevailed, and the private papers of hundreds of corporations, having contractual relations with the government, were put under searching examination.

Lured to Hotel Here.
The four men arrested fell into a cleverly laid trap set by the government. B. A. Bittan, president of the raincoat company, having disclosed to the government the improper proposals, the four men were lured to come to Washington and at a local hotel drew up with Bittan a commission under which a commission was to be paid.

The sum of \$500 in cash was to be exacted of Bittan for the benefit of the raincoat company, and the four men, who, the four men assured the department, were to be "fixed." Referring to the fact that the Department of Justice had on April 5 issued a warning against the system of contingent fee contracts, the department said a statement issued yesterday afternoon said:

Warning Not Heeded.
"Instead of taking notice of this warning the system has continued its practices. There are today a number of brokerage and contingent fee corporations who boldly circulate the names of the manufacturers of the government, and the latter are not aware of the fact that they have close relationship with some or all of the department of the government, and in some instances influence with individuals in these departments."

There are other instances where the manufacturer has sought a contract broker and requested him to obtain a contract for the manufacturer, who willingly agreed to pay a commission. As government contractors are required to furnish the proceeds of a large number of these are shared with the contingent fee man, the amount of these commissions can be imagined.

Volunteer Information.
In addition to the announcement that search has been made today of the records of all manufacturers with contractual relations with the government, the statement adds:

"A search also has been made of the papers of certain firms and corporations who act in the capacity of contingent fee operators. The government has been aided in its plan of investigating the whole situation through loyal and patriotic manufacturers who have volunteered information."

"There is no intention to interfere with legitimate relationships between manufacturers and the various departments of the government, but the manufacturer must deal directly with the department and not through a middleman or agent employed on a contingent fee basis."

The government, through all its agencies, is determined that money shall not be expended on contingent fees for brokerage contractors."

McAdoo Pleads With Patriots to Buy War Stamps

Secretary McAdoo today issued the following appeal in the war savings campaign:
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